

of uniform men, the stranger would hardly have guessed that the nation was engaged in a death struggle for the far distant battlefields of the south; for gayety and good cheer were the order of the day.

With 1892 being the era of manufacturing property, which was augmented with each passing year, is greater now than ever before, and promises indefinite expansion. It would be impossible to detail at length, or even to briefly mention, the steps of the city's progress during the past quarter of a century, and we can in this place name only a few of the more salient features which make it not only the metropolis of western Michigan, but in some respects the most remarkable center of industry and commerce in the United States, and have spread its fame throughout the civilized world.

NAVIGATION.

Something About the Condition of the River and its Traffic. It was long ago conceded that permanent improvement of Grand river above this city was impracticable—that is, the cost of deepening and widening the channel would be out of all proportion to the benefits to be derived therefrom.

small increase of capital, has increased its sales from \$12,489,900 in 1870 to nearly \$16,000,000 in 1892, showing more than anything else the growth of such sections of our state as localities in which timber land, being cleared, becomes fine farming land, and is taken up as fast as it is put on the market.

The Chicago & West Michigan Railroad company, organized October 1, 1881, is a consolidation of the Chicago & Michigan Lake shore, New Buffalo to Pontwater, 170 miles, and branches aggregating nearly two miles, for a distance of 187 1/2 miles, as the Chicago & West Michigan; the Grand Rapids, Newaygo & Lake Shore, Grand Rapids to White Cloud, forty-six miles; the Grand Haven, Allegan to Muskegon, fifty-seven miles; the Indiana & Michigan...

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes Flouring mills, Sawmills, Lumber, etc.

The Grand Rapids, Lansing & Detroit railroad company was incorporated May 20, 1887, to build a branch of the Detroit, Lansing & Northern from Grand Rapids to Lansing, which was put in operation in July, 1888.



MICHIGAN TRUST BUILDING—FIRE-PROOF—TEN STORIES.

Table titled 'Railway Traffic—1891.' with columns for Freight, Passengers, and Freight trains daily.

Table titled 'Comparative Statement of Bank Clearings for Six Years.' with columns for Year and Amount.

Table titled 'Jobbing Business—1891.' with columns for Nature of Business, Capital Employed, and Total Transacted.

Table titled 'Statement of Manufacturing Industries—1891.' with columns for Name of Business, Capital Employed, and Value of Product.

and excellently kept streets, strong, efficient and finely disciplined police and fire departments, public buildings and schools of the highest order, and every requisite of a progressive and capably governed city, including a park that must eventually become one of her crowning glories.

Street improvements—\$373,343 47. Sewer repairs—\$2,549 00. Engine houses—\$15,851 77. Water works—\$162,954 68. Police headquarters, electric wiring and concrete floors—\$1,119 00. Total—\$608,193 32.

Consolidation With the Board of Trade. The importance of some systematic organization among business men is so evident as to require no argument to establish its imperative necessity.

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MILLS OF THE CITY

Several Flourishing Flouring Establishments LOCATED IN GRAND RAPIDS

Not the least among the gigantic industries of this city are the flouring mills. Dependent in great measure upon the water power furnished by the Grand river, these industries which with their eyes and every possible or probable encroachment upon the water supply.

Valley City Milling Company. C. G. Swensberg, president; M. S. Crosby, vice-president; Wm. N. Rowe, manager—Manufacturers of High Grade Flour, Rye and Graham Flour, Fine Bolted Meal, Ground Feed and Mill Stuff—Office at Valley City Mills, north side of Bridge street, east end of bridge.

O. E. Brown Mill Company. O. E. Brown, president; R. E. Brown, vice-president; J. L. Ball, secretary and treasurer—shippers and dealers in flour and grain—corner Fifth avenue and Grand—R. I. railway tracks, office, No. 9 Canal street.

Grand Rapids Business College. Shortland, typewriting, normal, English and practical training school—A. S. Pariah, proprietor—Southwest corner Ottawa and Pearl streets.

Voigt Milling Co. Crescent Flouring Mills, west end of Pearl street Bridge—The largest and most complete mill in the Grand river valley. P. A. Voigt, manager.

His Honor, the Mayor. Grand Rapids is especially fortunate in her municipal officers, at the head of whom stands a mayor eminently fitted to discharge the duties of his office.

The Star Roller Mills. C. G. A. Voigt & Co. proprietors; Front street, south of West Bridge street. Manufacturers of High Grade Flour and Graham Flour, and dealers in buckwheat flour, mill feed, etc.

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